

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 20 and indicating that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter, and for the courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview of August 8, 2005.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-17, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 17, and 20 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 20.

Priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge that all certified copies of required priority documents have been received.

Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 11, 14, and 15. The Examiner has indicated on page 10 of the Office Action mailed June 22, 2005, that dependent claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, dependent claims 11, 14, and 15 have been canceled by this reply. Thus, Applicant believes all the claims of the present application are now in allowable form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the Examiner Interview of August 8, 2005, the specification includes support for the limitation that “the priority data indicates *a priority of the user with respect to other users* that access the resources of the terminal.” As agreed to by the Examiner, support for this limitation may be found, for example, on page 13 of the Specification, in the paragraph beginning on line 29. The cited portion of the Specification clearly states:

“For example, a user manager may give priority to a user “RECORDER”, such that a demand by the user to use a given resource will take priority over a demand by the user “VIEWER” to use that resource.”

Further support for this limitation may be found, for example, on page 14, lines 6-8 of the Specification. Specifically, a user is assigned a priority for viewing and/or controlling broadcasting programs. One user can take precedence over another user based on these priorities. For example, a user management application or an operator can access a profile of a user, read the priority data for the user, and make decisions as to whether to allow a user to access, view, record, etc., a program over another user. *See* Specification, page 14, lines 10-12.

In view of the above, it is clear that the Specification describes the limitation “priority data indicating a priority of the user with respect to other users that access the resources of the terminal.” Thus, claims 1 and 17 comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,163,316 (“Killian”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,359,661 (“Nickum”). Claim 11 has been canceled by this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 11. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the remaining amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 17 are now patentable over Killian and Nickum, whether considered separately or in combination. Further, dependent claims 2, 4, 7-10, 12, and 16 are allowable over Killian and Nickum for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Killian and Nickum and further in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA). Claim 14 has been canceled by

this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 14. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to amended claim 13, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled dependent claim 15. Thus, claim 1 is now patentable over Killian, Nickum, and APA, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claim 13 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345/026001).

Dated: August 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
for Jonathan P. Osha T. Chyan Liang
Registration No.: 33,986 #48,885
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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